

Submission  
No 283

## INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Greyhound Racing.

26 October 2013

Owner of a rescued ex-racer greyhound,

The greyhound racing industry perpetuates an unacceptable "sport" where the dogs involved are mostly exposed to poor welfare, distress, injury and abuse. In Australia the over supply from over-breeding sees at least 25000 greyhounds born each year. Most are routinely killed due to being deemed unsuitable for racing or due to injury. This can occur at any stage of their life. My rescued greyhound, an ex racer, was to meet her fate at only 3 years old.

Thankfully a rescue group got to her first. She is a perfect pet for our family and has an excellent nature. Less than 500 greyhounds a year are as lucky in being rescued and given the chance to live out their average lifespan of approximately 12 years.

For those not rescued, the overwhelming majority meet a dreadful fate such as being killed illegally by unthinkable methods, sent to laboratories or universities for cruel scientific experiments, exported to Asia for racing where a large trade in illegal dog meat trade exists. So indeed it is fair to surmise the "lucky" few are rescued or euthanized by a veterinarian.

There is widespread evidence of the unscrupulous practices of many of the participants in the greyhound racing industry. Whilst it is illegal, many greyhounds are baited with animals including possums, rabbits and cats (many live). The housing and crating of greyhounds can only be described as cruel and restrictive. Many racers are found to be in poor condition with skin and dental disease. The nature of the racing causes unnecessary risks to the wellbeing of the dogs and many injuries result in the euthanasia of greyhounds. Possibly of most concern is the involvement of drugs in the greyhound racing industry. A despicable practice of

“doping” dogs with amphetamines and other stimulants, is prevalent and it is questionable as to whether the industry is serious about stamping it out. The fines and penalties are very inadequate and enable those guilty of such offences to continue to race their dogs by transferring their responsibility to others or resuming racing at a later date.

The parents of my rescue greyhound had only 3 registered pups, a very curious small litter (it is often part of the practice to “reduce” the litter by killing pups at birth), none of whom went on to be successful racers. This is despite the dam (female) earning \$15 000 and the sire (male) earning \$166 000 during their respective careers.

My recommendation is that greyhound racing be abolished in Australia. The RSPCA, together with many other animal welfare organisations, remain concerned about many aspects of the greyhound racing industry. All the available evidence suggests it is a very poorly regulated industry where financial considerations are ahead of the welfare of the greyhounds.

These gentle dogs should not be running for their lives for greed or entertainment!